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THEY WERE **INFERIOR** TO US. THEY WERE **LESSER** BEINGS. THEIR DEATHS ARE INCONSEQUENTIAL. THESE ARE ALL THINGS I AM COMPLETELY AWARE OF.

I SHOULD NOT **CARE** THAT THEY ARE DEAD. I'VE HAD BLOOD ON MY HANDS BEFORE--FAR MORE THAN **THIS**.

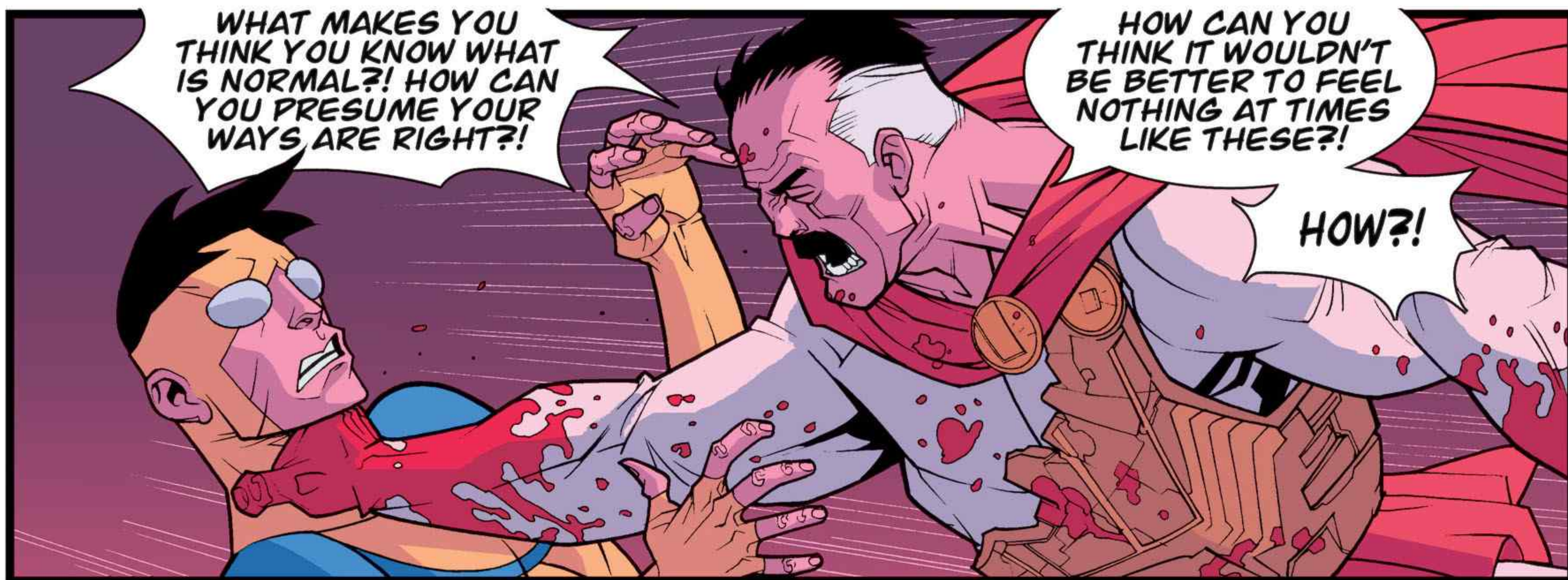
AND YET. I **CARE**.

I AM ENRAGED.



THAT'S OKAY, DAD. THAT'S **NORMAL**.

YOU'RE NOT THE SAME PERSON YOU ONCE WERE.



WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHAT IS **NORMAL**?! HOW CAN YOU PRESUME YOUR WAYS ARE **RIGHT**?!

HOW CAN YOU THINK IT WOULDN'T BE BETTER TO FEEL NOTHING AT TIMES LIKE **THESE**?!

HOW?!



DAD--

--PLEASE.



THERE'S
THE NOLAN
WE'VE HEARD
STORIES
OF.

I MUST
ADMIT. YOU HAD
ME WORRIED
FOR A LITTLE
WHILE
THERE.





WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?! YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS?! THESE PEOPLE DID NOTHING TO DESERVE THIS!!

I WAS RULING THEM-- THEY WERE READY TO BECOME A PART OF THE VILTRUM EMPIRE!

WHY DID YOU DO THIS?!

WRAMMM!
WRAMMM!
WRAMMM!



TO PISS YOU OFF!



THE MORE PISSED YOU ARE-- THE LESS YOU THINK. THE LESS YOU THINK-- THE EASIER YOU'LL BE TO DEFEAT!

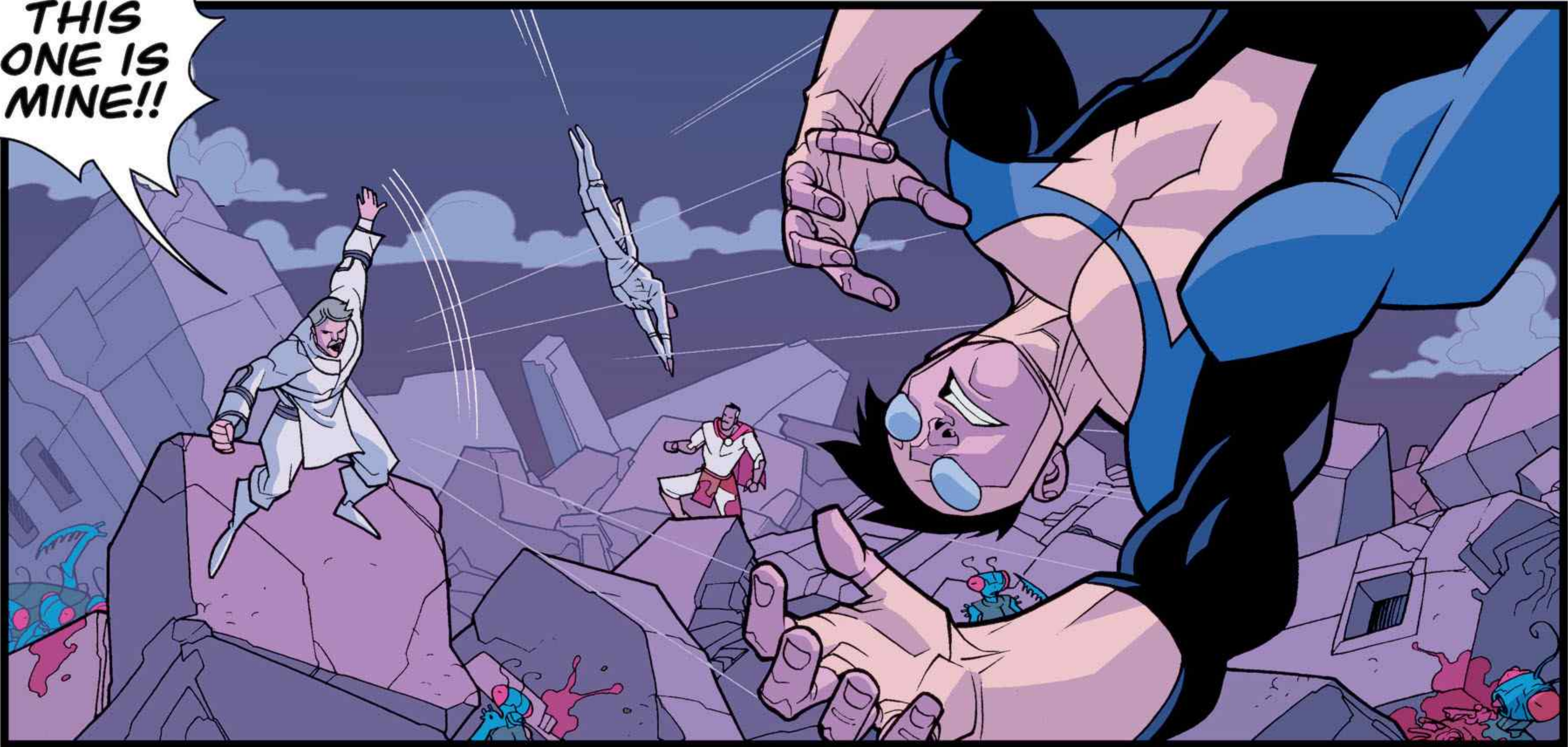
NOT THAT OUR VICTORY HERE WAS EVER IN QUESTION.

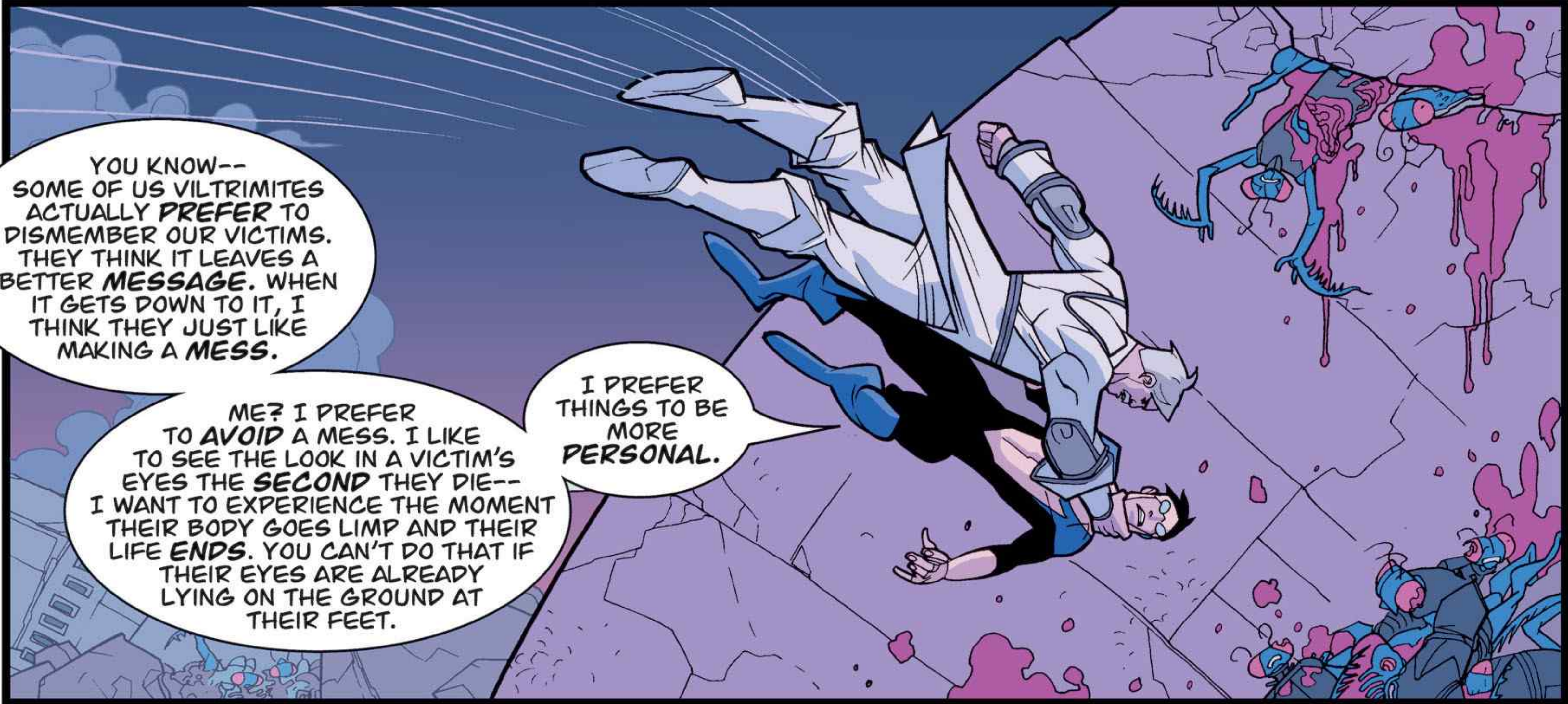


I CAN ASSUME THAT SINCE LUCAN IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND--YOU'VE KILLED HIM.

GOOD.

I ALWAYS KNEW HE WAS WEAK. SOON, I'LL KNOW YOU WERE WEAK, TOO.

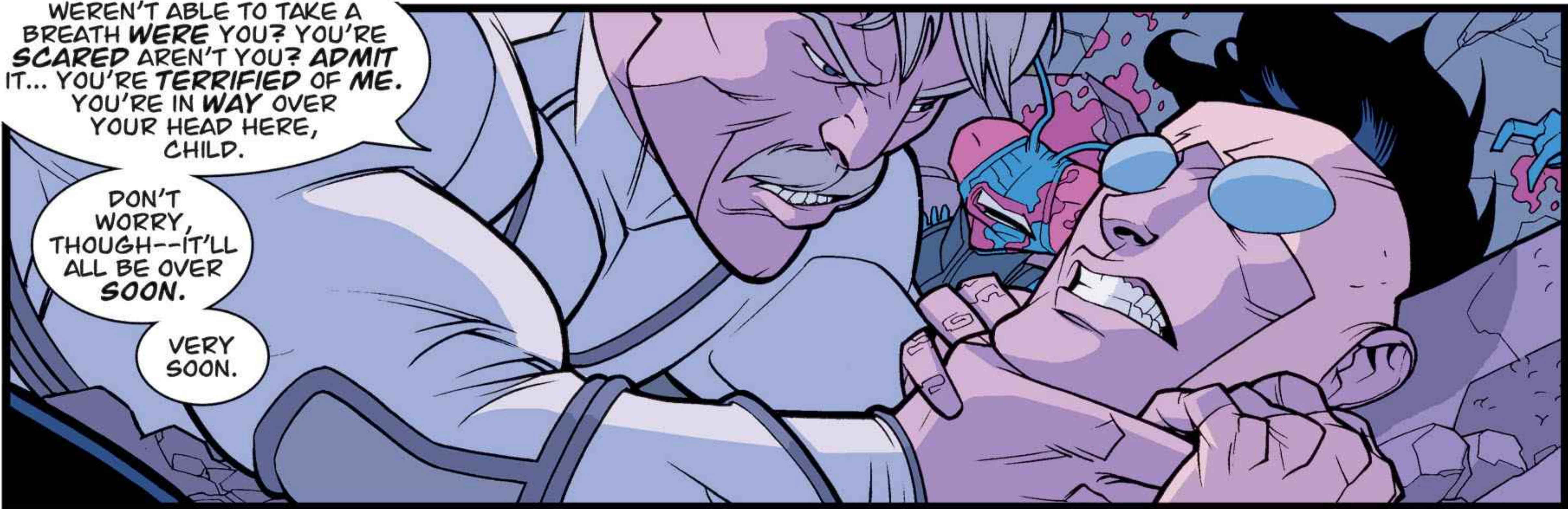




YOU KNOW--
SOME OF US VILTRIMITES
ACTUALLY **PREFER** TO
DISMEMBER OUR VICTIMS.
THEY THINK IT LEAVES A
BETTER **MESSAGE**. WHEN
IT GETS DOWN TO IT, I
THINK THEY JUST LIKE
MAKING A **MESS**.

ME? I PREFER
TO **AVOID** A MESS. I LIKE
TO SEE THE LOOK IN A VICTIM'S
EYES THE **SECOND** THEY DIE--
I WANT TO EXPERIENCE THE MOMENT
THEIR BODY GOES LIMP AND THEIR
LIFE **ENDS**. YOU CAN'T DO THAT IF
THEIR EYES ARE ALREADY
LYING ON THE GROUND AT
THEIR FEET.

I PREFER
THINGS TO BE
MORE
PERSONAL.



WEREN'T ABLE TO TAKE A
BREATH WERE YOU? YOU'RE
SCARED AREN'T YOU? ADMIT
IT... YOU'RE **TERRIFIED** OF ME.
YOU'RE IN WAY OVER
YOUR HEAD HERE,
CHILD.

DON'T
WORRY,
THOUGH--IT'LL
ALL BE OVER
SOON.

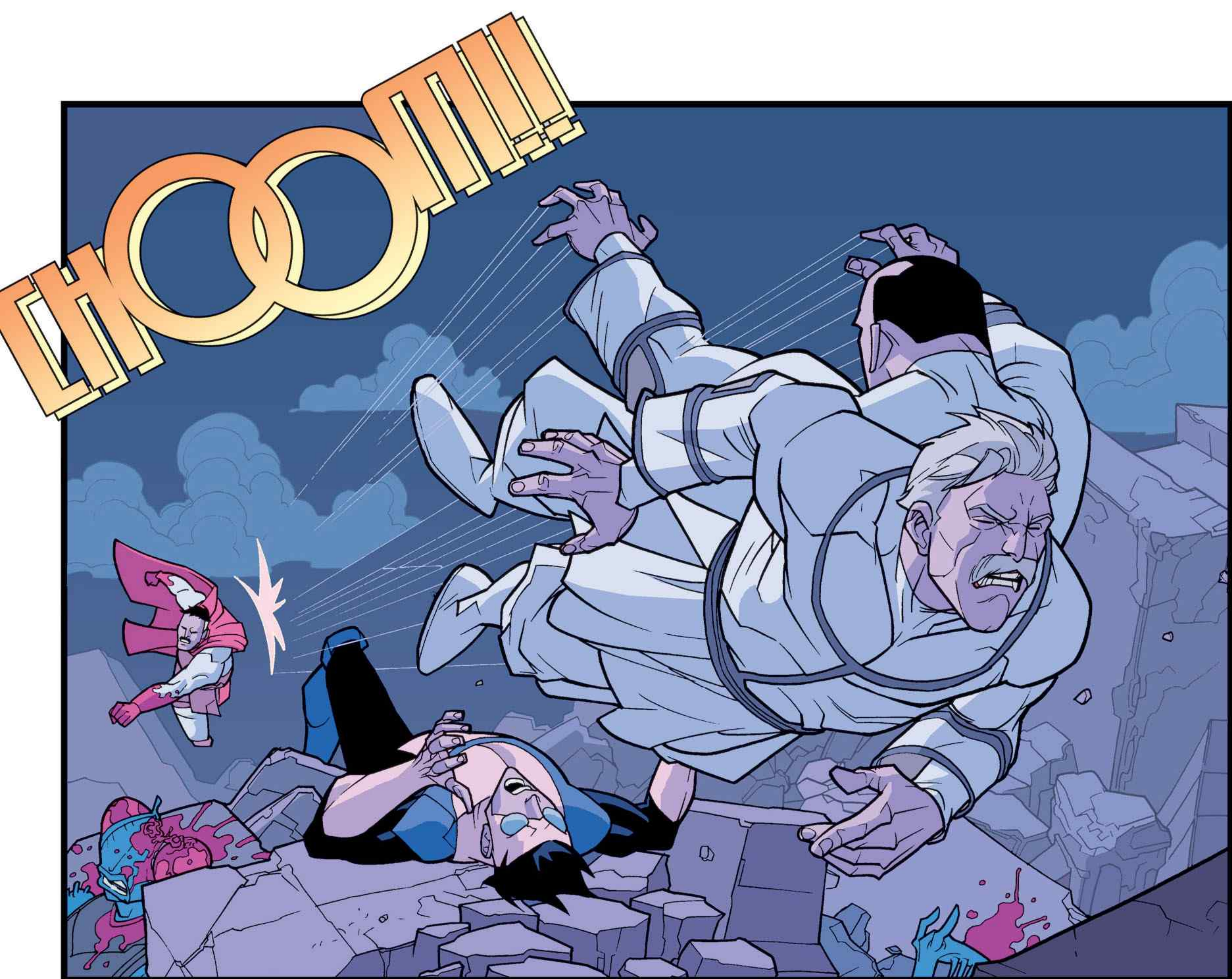
VERY
SOON.



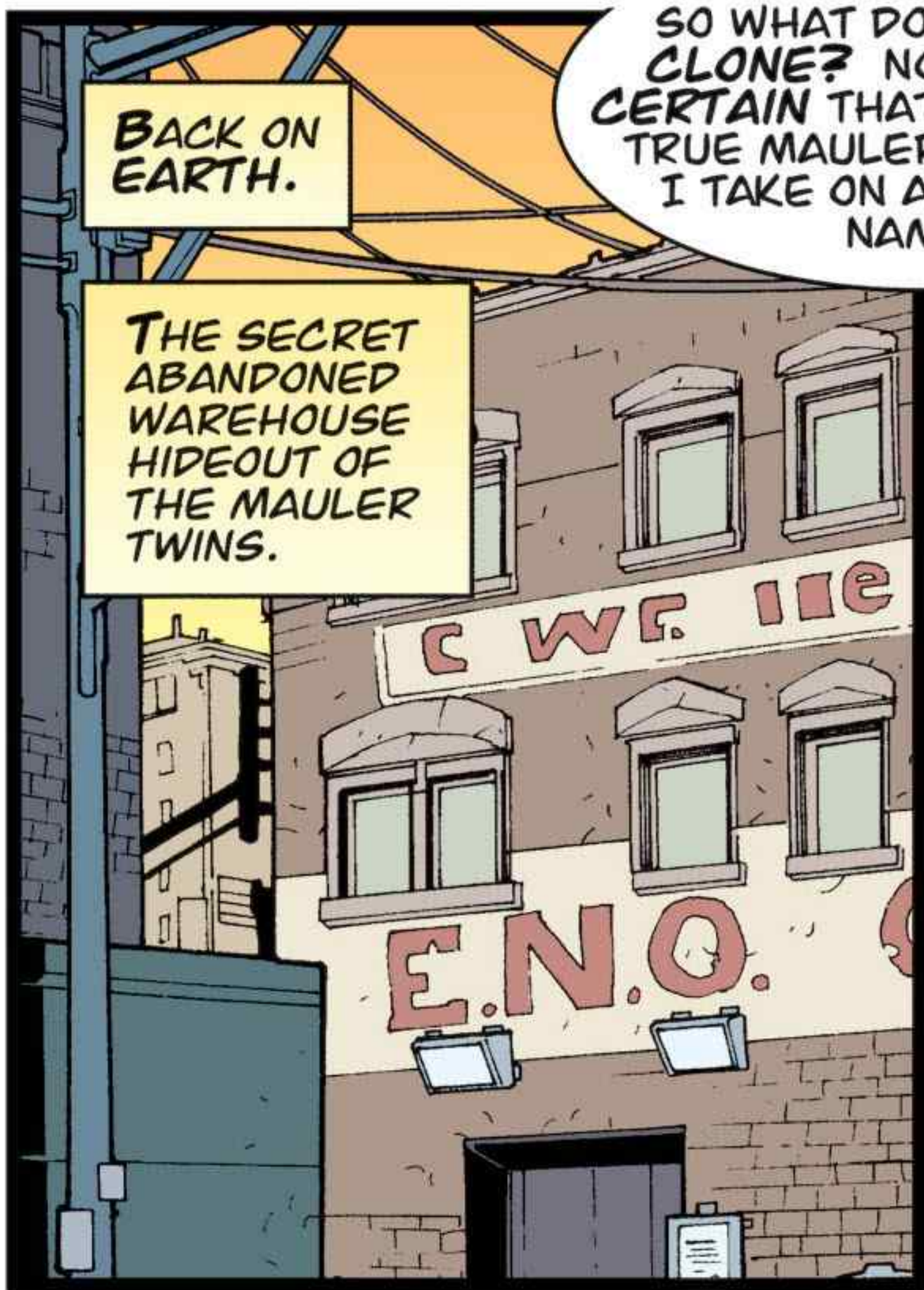
I COMMEND THE
EFFORT, I DO,
BUT IT WILL HAVE
NO **EFFECT**. YOU
ARE AS GOOD
AS DEAD.



...







BACK ON EARTH.

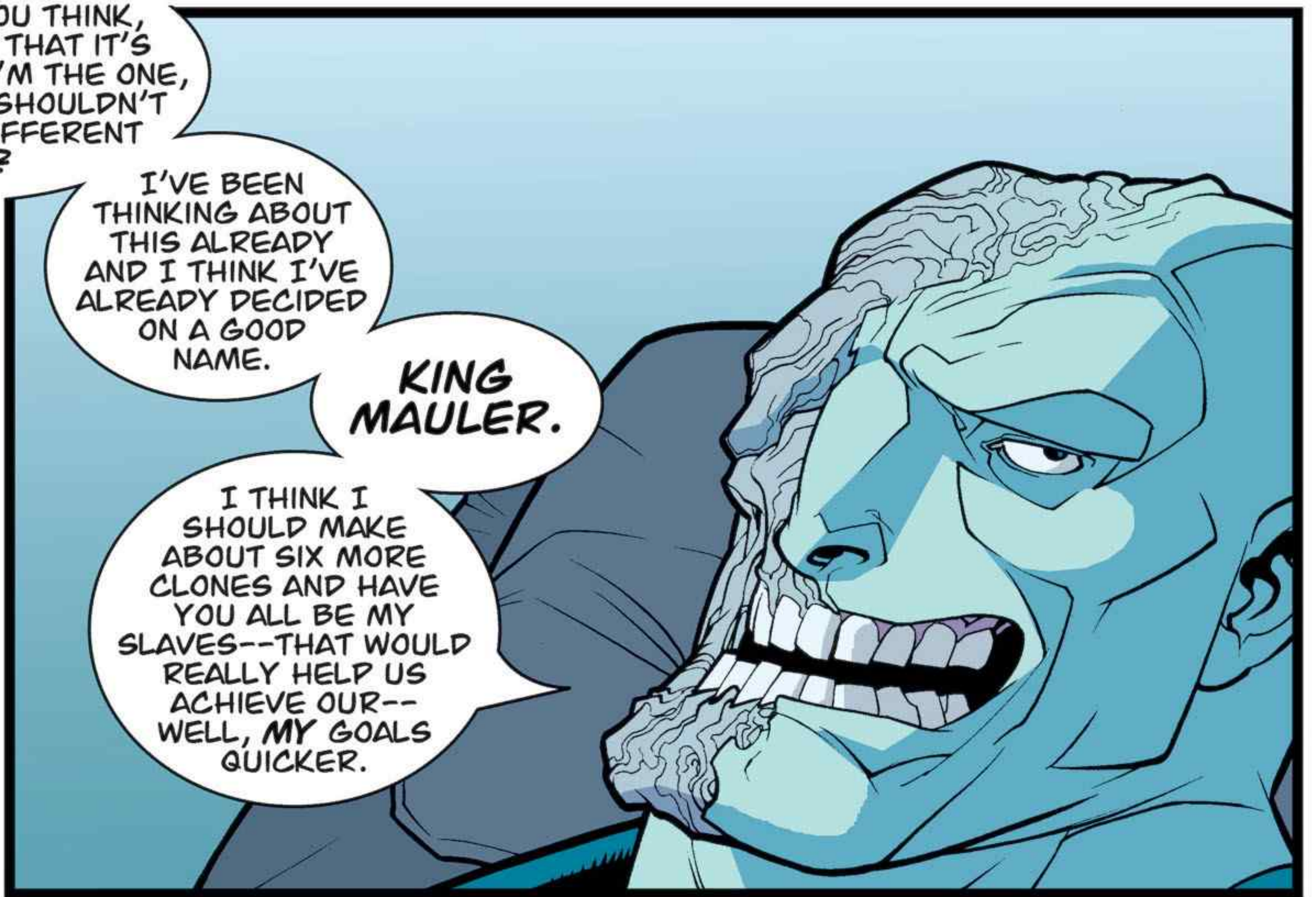
THE SECRET ABANDONED WAREHOUSE HIDEOUT OF THE MAULER TWINS.

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK, CLONE? NOW THAT IT'S CERTAIN THAT I'M THE ONE, TRUE MAULER, SHOULDN'T I TAKE ON A DIFFERENT NAME?

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS ALREADY AND I THINK I'VE ALREADY DECIDED ON A GOOD NAME.

KING MAULER.

I THINK I SHOULD MAKE ABOUT SIX MORE CLONES AND HAVE YOU ALL BE MY SLAVES--THAT WOULD REALLY HELP US ACHIEVE OUR--WELL, MY GOALS QUICKER.



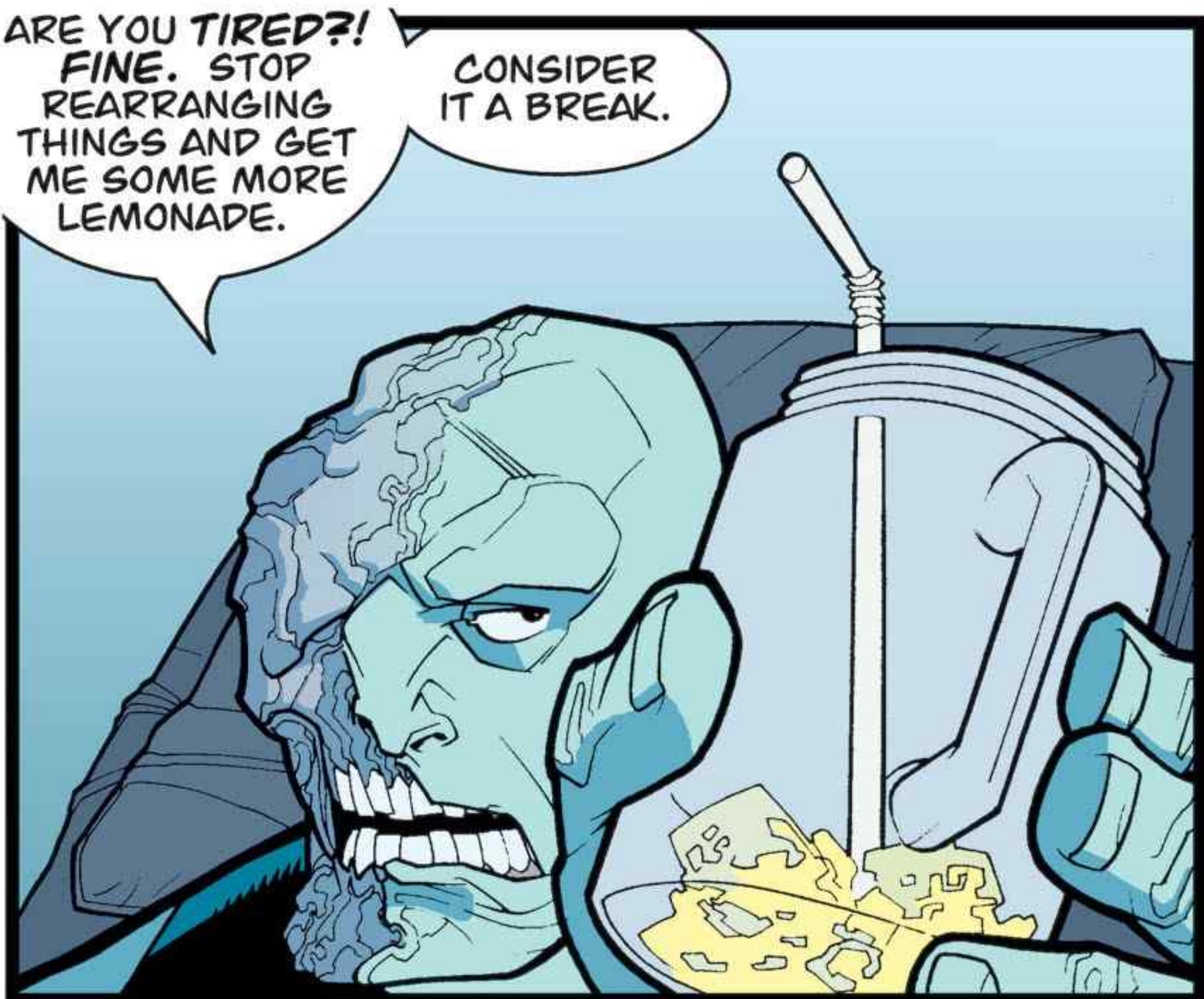
IT'S FUNNY HOW WE NEVER THOUGHT TO HAVE MORE THAN TWO OF US BEFORE, ISN'T IT?

YES--

--FUNNY.

ARE YOU TIRED?! FINE. STOP REARRANGING THINGS AND GET ME SOME MORE LEMONADE.

CONSIDER IT A BREAK.



YES, SIR.

THANK YOU, SIR.



OKAY, I CAN IMAGINE YOU'RE NOT TOO PLEASED WITH THIS SITUATION BUT THIS FALSE SERVITUDE IS STARTING TO GET ANNOYING.

I ORDER YOU TO STOP.

AT ONCE, SIR.

VERY FUNNY.

GULP!

WAS THAT A NEW BATCH? THAT TASTED TERRIBLE! WHAT DID YOU--?

GAKK!!

I'LL ADMIT, POISONING YOU IS A BIT CLICHÉ, BUT WE ARE SO EVENLY MATCHED, KILLING YOU BY HAND WOULD HAVE BEEN NO SIMPLE TASK.

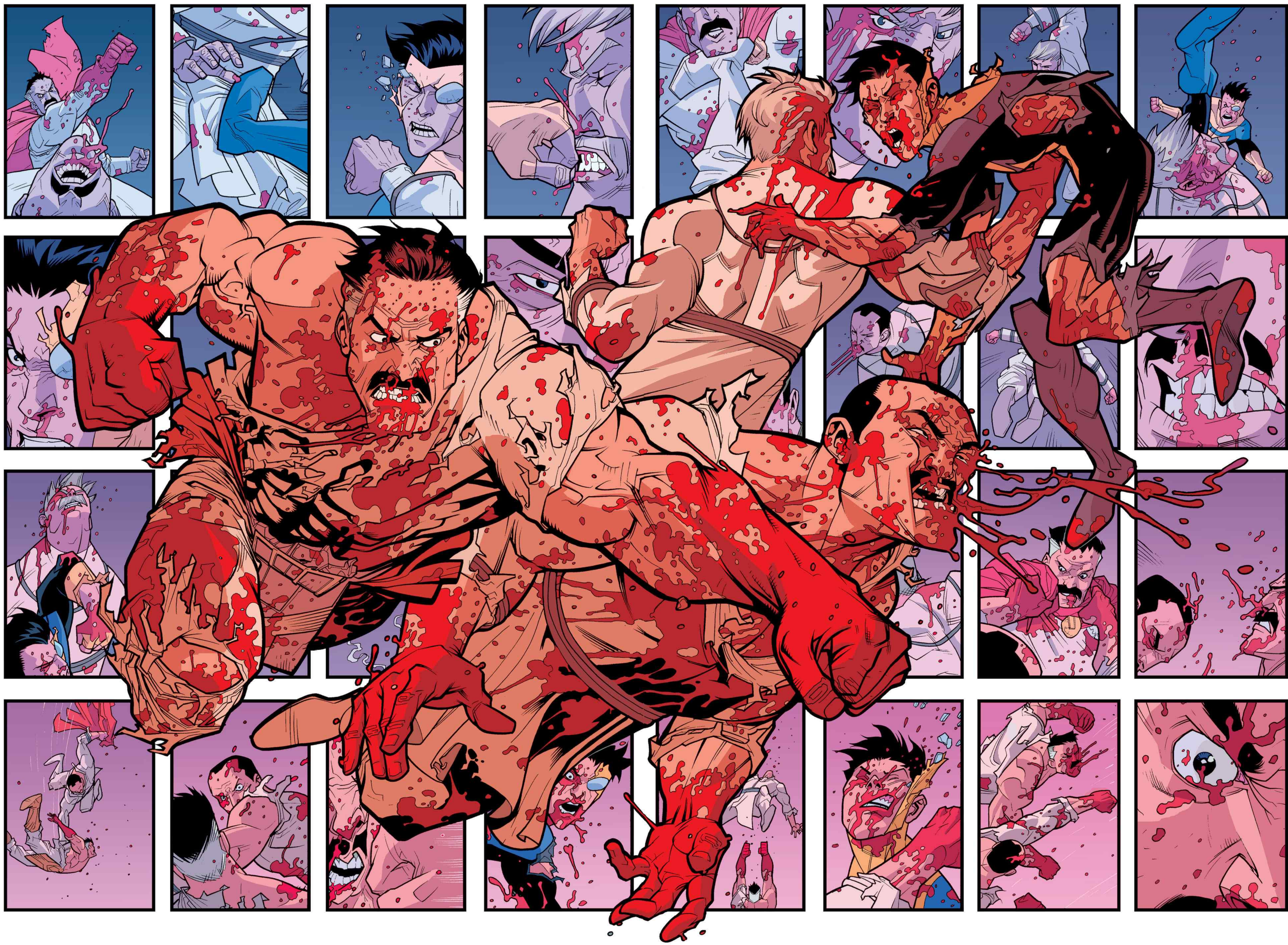
GAK!

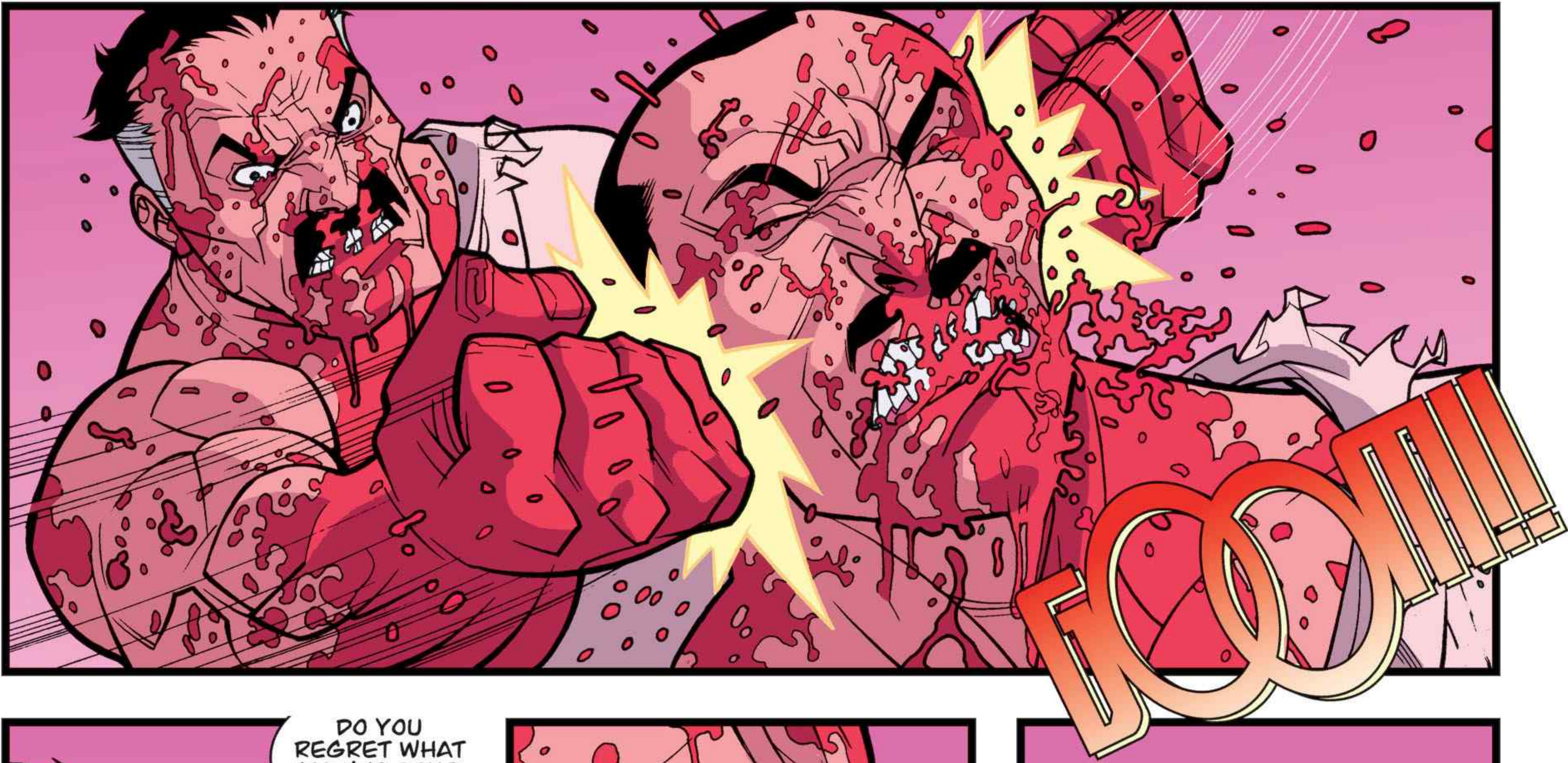
DON'T FIGHT IT. THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO. JUST TAKE COMFORT IN THE FACT THAT YOU WILL LIVE ON--IN ME, AND MY FUTURE CLONES.

AND REALLY, I AM SORRY FOR DOING THIS. I REGRET IT MORE THAN YOU KNOW--IT'S VERY MUCH LIKE KILLING MYSELF.

YOU'VE ONLY GOT YOURSELF TO BLAME, THOUGH. YOU MADE IT CLEAR TO ME, THAT WORKING TOGETHER, WITH MYSELF, ONLY WORKS IF I'M UNAWARE OF WHICH ONE IS THE CLONE.

SO YOU JUST HAD TO GO.





MARK!



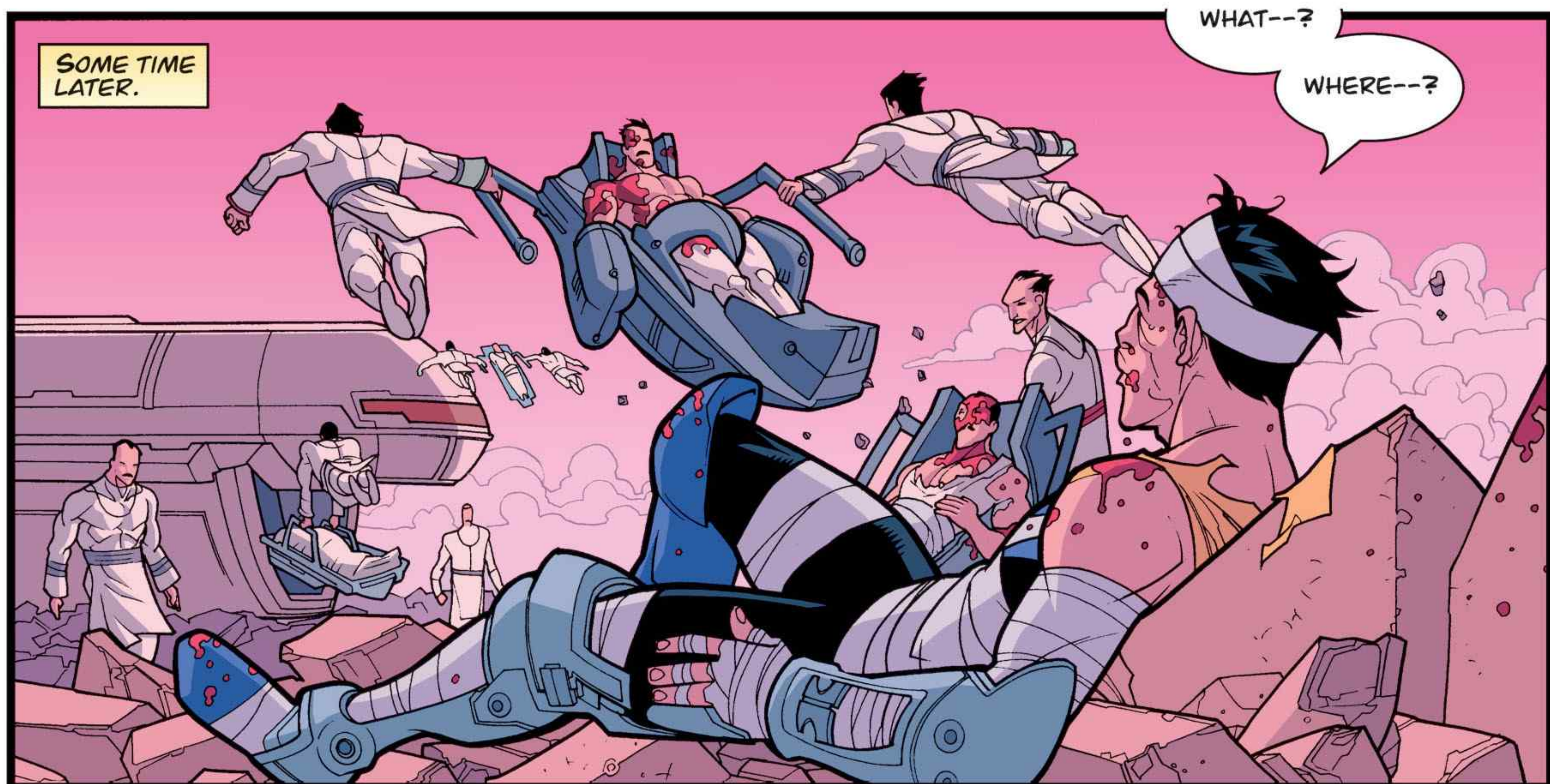
YOU'LL
DIE FOR
THIS!!





SNAP!





SOME TIME LATER.

WHAT--?

WHERE--?



READ MY--
BOOKS,
MARK.

MY
BOOKS.



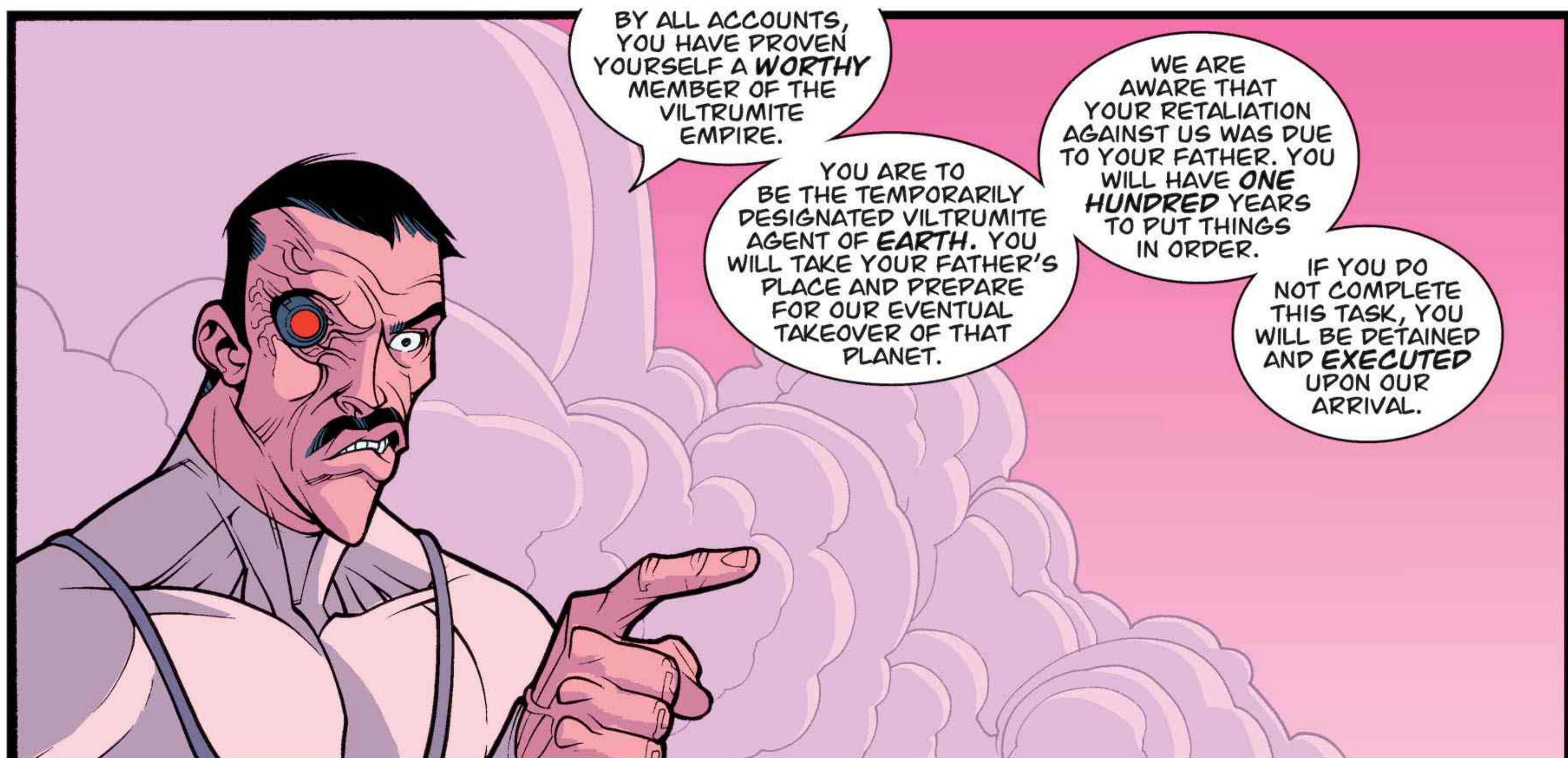
YOUR
BOOKS?



WE TENDED
TO YOUR
WOUNDS.



WHY?



BY ALL ACCOUNTS,
YOU HAVE PROVEN
YOURSELF A **WORTHY**
MEMBER OF THE
VILTRUMITE
EMPIRE.

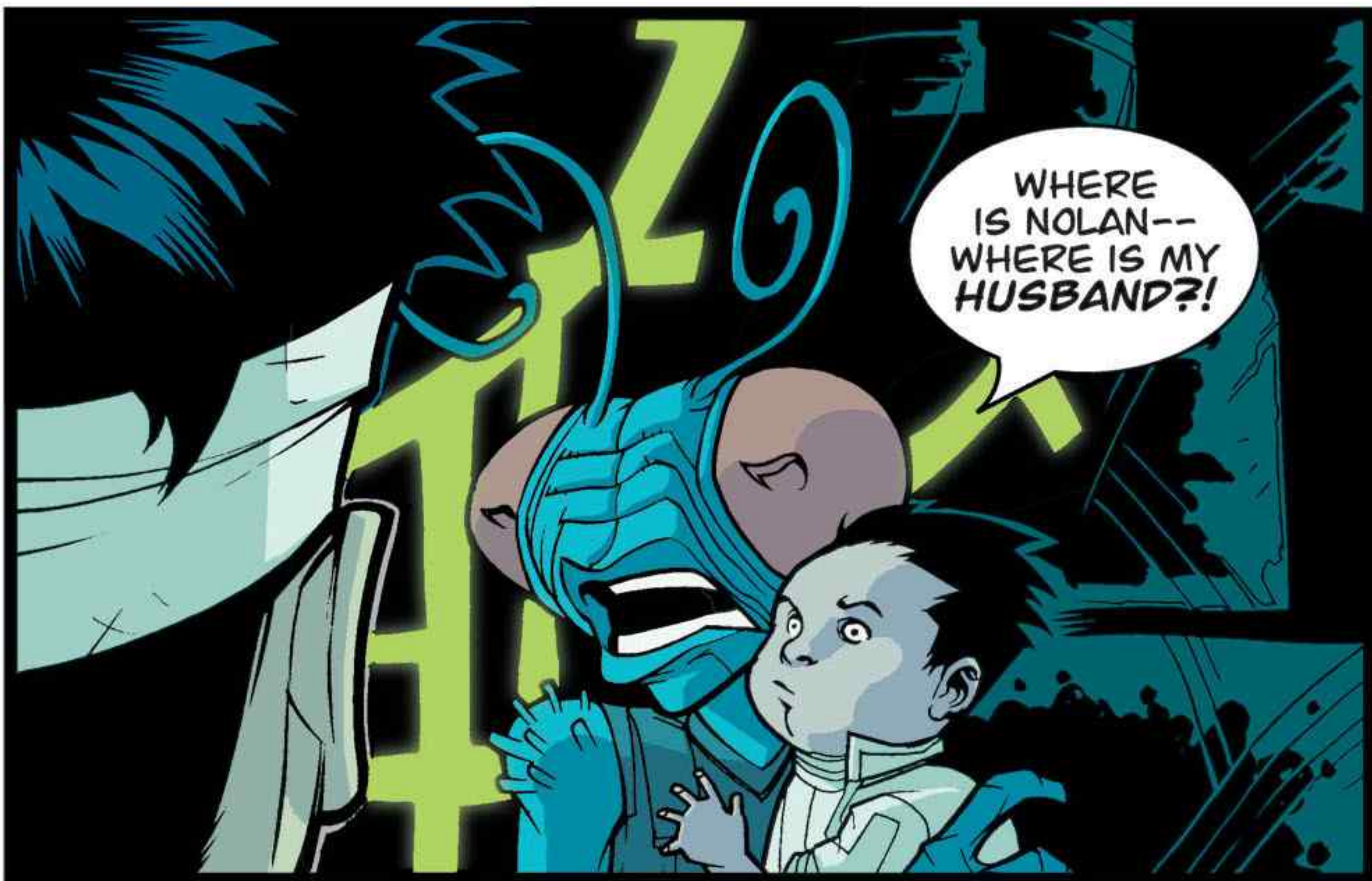
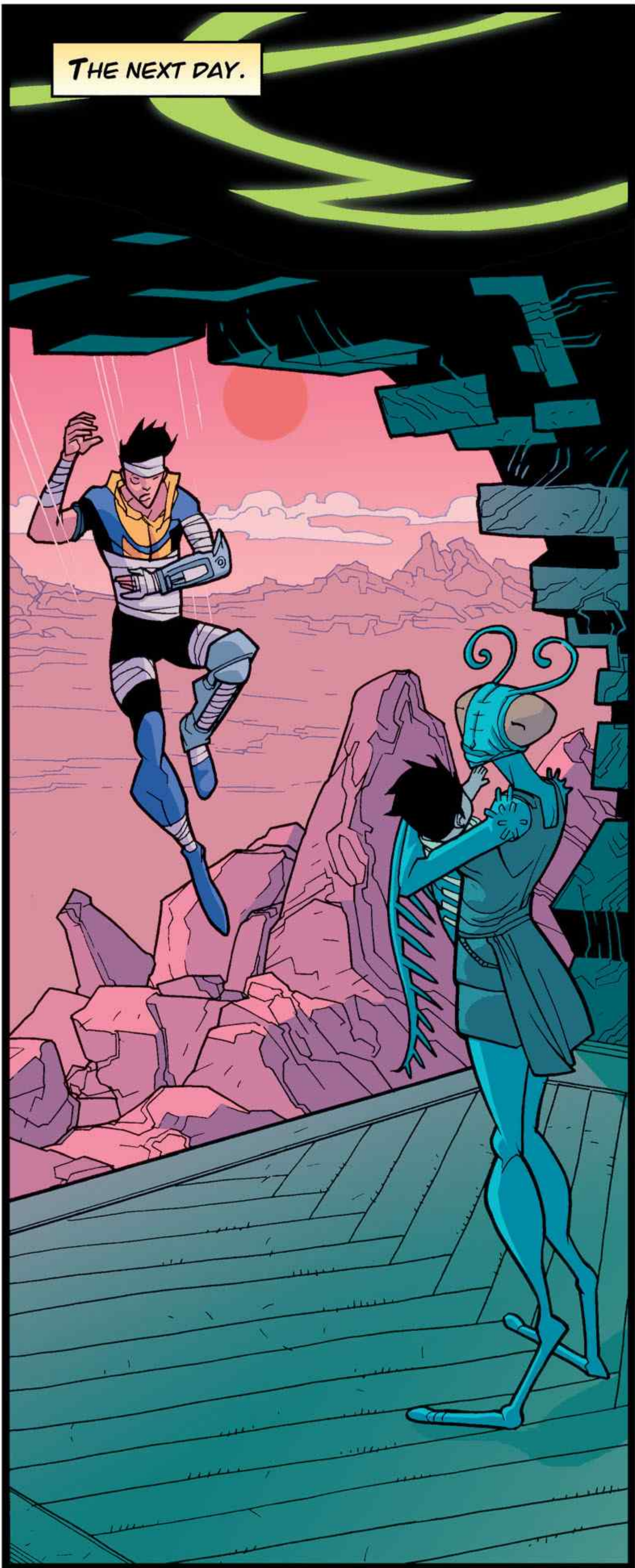
YOU ARE TO
BE THE TEMPORARILY
DESIGNATED VILTRUMITE
AGENT OF **EARTH**. YOU
WILL TAKE YOUR FATHER'S
PLACE AND PREPARE
FOR OUR EVENTUAL
TAKEOVER OF THAT
PLANET.

WE ARE
AWARE THAT
YOUR RETALIATION
AGAINST US WAS DUE
TO YOUR FATHER. YOU
WILL HAVE **ONE
HUNDRED YEARS**
TO PUT THINGS
IN ORDER.

IF YOU DO
NOT COMPLETE
THIS TASK, YOU
WILL BE DETAINED
AND **EXECUTED**
UPON OUR
ARRIVAL.

WHATEV--

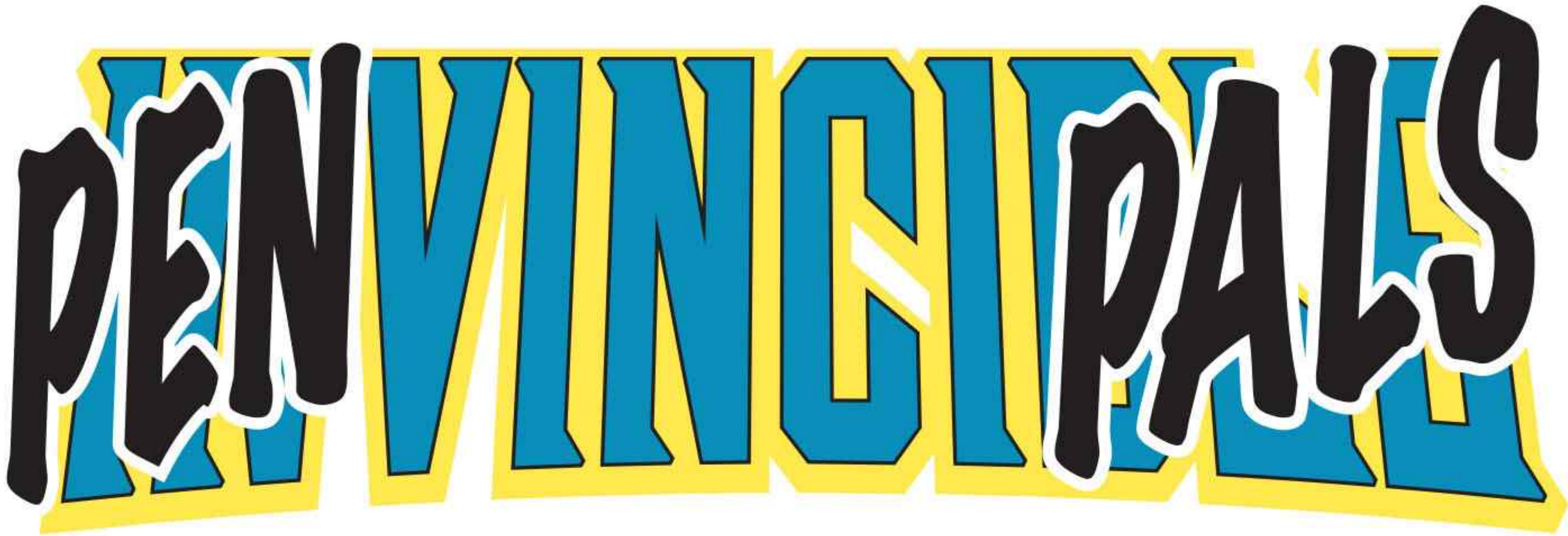




WRITE US @

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INVINCIBLE@FUNKOTRON.COM



Issue 29? Already? Wow.

Okay, yeah... we’re running a little behind but as I type this Ryan is starting work on issue 32 so we’ll be catching up in short order thanks to Cliff Rathburn’s masterful inks and a hastened pace on everyone’s part.

In other news, HEROCLIX is going to be doing an INVINCIBLE collectors set. SEVEN figures in total. The line-up will be: INVINCIBLE, OMNI-MAN, ALLEN, ATOM EVE, ROBOT, ANGSTROM LEVY, and TITAN. I’ll let you know when they’ll be available and how you can get them when the time comes.

Mail? You want to read some mail? Sounds good to me.

DUDE!

I liked the crossover. I hope to see more. I was kind of hoping to see Invincible join the Marvel U permanently but I suppose that will never happen.

What I’d really like is for you to ID a couple of the heros on page 2 and 3.

1) The Little Dog with the red cape.

That’s some dude from CAPES Mark Englert always threw in the background. Mark Englert’s thing really... so sue HIM.

2) The Blue priest

That’s HOLY WATER... he’s featured in the CAPES back-ups pretty prominently.

3) The Black guy with the heart on his chest.

BROTHER LOVE.

4) The guy in the gorilla suit

That’s THE GORILLA.

5) The guy with the mummy wrap around his face.

That guy’s name is CAMELOT for no other reason than I liked the sound of the name and I created him in ninth grade. A lot of the Capes guys are superheroes I created in high school and before.

6) The guy who looks like Batman with a half-moon on his chest and an electric razor for a face.

That would be NIGHT KNIGHT, that’s not an electric razor... it’s a faceplate from a medieval suit of armor.

I’m assuming they work for CAPES but I don’t remember them from the mini. If you’ve got some time and no interesting letters maybe you could give us their names and powers.

Ken Lindgren

Yeah, all those guys are from CAPES. Now let’s get to some INTERESTING letters.

DUDE!

Yeah, so, the most recent Invincible continues to deliver all of the regular super-goodness I’ve come to expect from both you and the great Ryan Ottley. I for one am quite enjoying the more compressed storytelling of the recent issues. It’s always quite nice to read a single-issue comic that takes longer than most of the trades from the big two.

Yeah, we like telling dense stories too... although, as you can see this issue opened up quite a bit to allow for some fighting. We’ll do whatever the story dictates.

It’s cool to get a few hints about what’s happening on earth in this issue with the big battle and the mini-introduction to the Capes cast. It’s interesting to see how you’re going to get from outer space back to earth to dimension hopping in the next four issues.

Just you wait.

I’m not sure what to make of Capes quite yet. I vaguely remember seeing the series out years back, but to be honest, I didn’t even know it was a Kirkman book. Interesting cast so far; I’m curious to see where you’re taking these guys in the future. And if you really insist on these “Dude” intros, you’re going to have to get a Ninja Turtles crossover scheduled soon. Keep producing one of the best superhero comics on the market and I’ll keep buying.

Nick Ahlhelm

Thanks, dude.

Dude,

Superb opening fight scene in #27; it had that great packed-full-of-action look that the Busiek/Perez Avengers issues had back when stuff used to happen in that comic. Those pages full of panels look great, and while I know they must be a pain to script and drawn, I’d love to see more of that.

They’re not quite as hard to script as they are to draw... as I’m sure you’re aware.

And assuming you don’t kill the little bugger off, I’d also love to see more of Mark’s little brother. The idea of a younger brother that will age faster than him is a wonderful one, and I’d like to see him become a regular character, perhaps a friendly rival to our hero.

I’ll see what I can do... but really, I can’t promise ANYTHING. You’ve been warned.

Oh, and Marvel Team-Up #14 was top notch stuff, and I can’t wait to see the other half of the story in these pages. When are they going to let you write the real Avengers title?

I think I take over next year.

Good stuff Kirkman, and I do believe it’s getting better. Keep it up!

- Kelvin Green

Thanks, dude.

Dear Robert,

You might remember me as the person who sent in the letter earlier about a Jack Staff crossover. First, did you happen to read the latest issue of Toyfare? Someone wrote a letter in the letters column about Invincible action figures. But on to the real reason I’m writing, I know a book of this popularity rarely gets any criticism, but I can honestly say that I think the book has gotten worse and worse lately. Honestly, I think the book has been on a downward spiral since the arc where Mark went to space. Up until that point I enjoyed reading Invincible for the great story and art, but also because it wasn’t such a “mainstream” comic back then as it is today. You know, when the Penvincipals were only a page long if that, before Paramount bought the rights to an Invincible movie, and before all the other media craze. And it goes without saying but I’ll say it anyway, that I don’t blame you at all for that. I mean, it is your goal writing a comic book to make it a top seller and rake in the big dough. I just think that since then the overall comic has lost it’s quality it once had. Like issue 26 and its “lack of action” per se. I’m not one of those people who complain about not having fight scenes all the time, but damn, I at least expected some kind of extra story in 26 besides what we got. I know the Mark meeting his Dad and baby brother were very significant events, but damn, did it have to take up the whole issue, with no other story except the part with Mark’s mom? I also don’t understand why you would throw in such a worthless page filler like you did in the opening of 27 with Rexplode, Shrinking Ray and the gang teaming up with members of Capes to take on that new villian, a very tired looking character at that. Nine pages to introduce Tech Jacket and Bolt and the Capes gang in the fight? I think you just needed SOME sort of action in this issue so you threw that in there. I mean, why have the Capes in there with the others when we already get a backup story? Bolt and Thor Lad have already made appearances in the book anyway. The final nail on the coffin was the Capes backup story. As a fan of the original series, which now seems like some time ago, I think it’s ridiculous that we are getting 6 parts in the back of Invincible every month. Why not give it a

new series, or further continue the old one? I think it deserves that much respect easily. I also hope you bring back a lot of the superheroes from the original Capes series. Well, at least issue 27 concluded with a possible good setup for next issue, so i'll continue to give it a shot.

A frustrated fan,
Mark

Hey, man... you win some, you lose some. I personally think the series is getting better and better. I mean, I don't see how Paramount optioning the book could make it all of a sudden get worse. Also, there are ALWAYS things in the book like the scene at the beginning of issue 27 that MAY seem like filler at the time but are very much NOT in the grand scheme of things. I mean, issue 23 could have seemed like filler to some people... but it's probably the most important issue to come out of this series so far.

Also, how is it somehow disrespectful of CAPES to have it as a back-up? I don't have time for a full series and I LOVE CAPES and want to do MORE. So this is how I'm doing it. Wait a minute... "MARK" huh? Is this MARK ENGLERT?! Screw this. Next letter.

Dear Kirkman,

Dude! There, I did it. And wow, I'm hurt. Two issues in a week and none with my letters. So I voted for the Invincible Heroclix set. Everyone should go to Wizkidsgames.com and vote for it as well (if it's not too late). It is. Doesn't matter if you don't play. It'll get Invincible out there more for new readers. Can't wait for the Viltrumite showdown next issues (or a few issues past IF this letter gets printed). Love you man. I love you, too.

1. Loved the Invincible/ Spidey issue of Marvel Team-Up. Not a question, just letting you know. The jokes were funny and the dialogue was good. "Nova-Guy?" Some people are complaining that it was just an ad for Invincible. I thought that was a good thing, since more people need to be reading, but whatever.

It was supposed to be an ENTERTAINING ad for INVINCIBLE... buy yeah.

2. How sweet was that battle in the beginning of issue 27? Ok, again not really a question. Man, good stuff. Eat that Bendis.

It's really not hard to get BENDIS to eat ANYTHING.

3. Why Doctor Octopus in MTU? Invincible totally should have flown Venom into space and ripped him in half. Take that Sentry!

Is Doctor Octopus not as cool if not cooler than Venom? I thought so.

4. I've asked before, but after the Capes stuff, can we get a bio page or two in this book?

Maybe. That stuff is a lot of work.

So this is the only book that has good double page spreads that don't tick me off. There's a lot going on in them and they are done at the right moment. The whole Omnipotus (good name by the way) was great. I hope that Viltrumites make it to earth and we get another huge battle or two. Looking forward to Ultimate X-Men and Marvel Zombies. I can't say that enough. Ultimate X-Men. Marvel Zombies. Are you writing that Thor What If? Too? See you next month.

Chris Pitts

Yeah, I am writing all that stuff... maybe I should start mentioning stuff coming out at the end of these letters columns... I figured if you're reading these

letters columns you already know about this stuff, but maybe not.

ITEM! Shipping the end of MARCH we'll have INVINCIBE The Ultimate Collection VOLUME 2. It'll be a nice thick hardcover like the first one. It has issues 14-24 along with #0 and the Free Comic Book Day story and loads of extras. It'll retail for \$34.95

ITEM! THE PACT #4 is in stores NOW and has been for a few weeks now. It's written by me, drawn by Jason Howard and features the return of a certain villain from this very book. You don't have to have read issues 1-3 to understand the issue. It's a lot of fun.

ITEM! SUPERPATRIOT: WAR ON TERROR #4 is finally coming out. Sorry for the long delay. It's been resolicited for MARCH and should be in stores toward the end of the month. It's our big finale... it's going to blow doors off--which considering how much time we spent putting the doors ON... should mean something to you.

ITEM! THE WALKING DEAD keeps going strong, if you like horror or people talking, or horrific things happening to people who talk, you'll dig it. Pick it up. Issue 26 should be out around the same time--or on the same DAY as this issue.

ITEM! BATTLE POPE is coming out regularly after a small snag with a worthless colorist. Issue 5 is on stands now and future issues should be following at a monthly rate, or the fur will fly. It's a fun series, written by me, drawn by Tony Moore & Friends and colors by aforementioned worthless colorist Val Staples. Ask for it by name.

ITEM! MARVEL TEAM-UP #19 is a kick ass story set in the Marvel Universe from 1991 featuring CABLE and WOLVERINE teaming up to fight THE MANDARIN. It features art by CORY WALKER and CLIFF RATHBURN and is going to be colored by VAL STAPLES. Ask for it by name. It's also a prelude to the big "FREEDOM RING" storyline that runs through Team-Up 20-24 featuring art by ANDY KUHN so pick it up.

ITEM! My second issue of ULTIMATE X-MEN should be out by now. Featuring art by TOM RANEY. It's a blast working on these characters and I'm hoping the fun I'm having shows. I've got a lot of cool stuff planned for my run, so check it out.

ITEM! Unless you've been living under a rock you've heard about MARVEL ZOMBIES my mini-series with SEAN PHILIPS over at Marvel. The first issue



NEXT
ISSUE

HOME

AND NOW...



ROBERT KIRKMAN MARK ENGLERT RUS WOOTON
CREATOR, WRITER PENCILER, INKER, COLORIST LETTERER



KET

ERIK EVENSEN / 05